

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /026 W
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R 232337Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5813

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3311

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR EA DEPUTY ASSIST SECRETARY ZURHELLEN FROM MARSHALL GREEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PINT, AS (MALCOLM FRASER)
SUBJECT: FRASER VISIT

REF: STATE 106502

1. WHEN PHIL HABIB AND I BREAKFASTED MAY 23 WITH MALCOLM FRASER, HE SEEMED POSITIVE ABOUT HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, BUT LATER IN THE DAY HE PHONED ME TO SAY THAT HE WAS DISTURBED BY MY DISCOURAGING REMARK ABOUT ARRANGING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. FRASER WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS VISITING LONDON RATHER THAN WASHINGTON, OR PROLONGING THE EA LEG OF HIS TRIP; AND IF A WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE, HE WOULD PROBABLY FEEL A BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE IN OMITTING WASHINGTON ON HIS TRIP THIS JUNE OR JULY.

2. I TOLD HIM AGAIN THAT WE LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND I WAS SURE IT WOULD BE OF GREAT MUTUAL BENEFIT, WHETHER OR NOT A WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT POSSIBLE. FRASER THEN DIVULGED HIS CONCERN THAT AUSTRALIAN PRESS WOULD PORTRAY HIM IN A BAD LIGHT IF HE, A WELL KNOWN FRIEND OF THE US, WAS UNABLE TO GET TO SEE THE PRESIDENT.

3. I HAVE ALREADY CONVEYED TO FRASER THE ESSENCE OF PARA 2 REFTEL ALTHOUGH I DID NOT MENTION POINT ABOUT BILLY SNEDDEN OR WHITLAM, SINCE HE REGARDS HIMSELF AS A BETTER FRIEND OF US
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THAN EITHER OF THEM AND CERTAINLY MORE INTERESTED IN FOREIGN

AFFAIRS THAN SNEDDEN. SORRY TO TAX YOU ON THIS, AS INDEED I AM
BEING TAXED, BUT BELIEVE IT NOW BEST FOR YOU TO PUT UP REQUEST
FORMALLY TO WHITE HOUSE FOR YES OR NO. PLEASE LET ME KNOW REPLY
SOONEST.
GREEN

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NNN

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